

JANUARY 13, 1976

THE OAU AND ANGOLA

ANNCR: AFTER DAYS OF DISCUSSION, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TUESDAY FOUND IT COULD NOT AGREE ON A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ANGOLA. VOA NEWS ANALYST GEORGE HALSEY HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE: THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO LACK OF EFFORT ON THE PART OF OAU MEMBERS. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MET FIRST, BUT FOUND WITHIN A FEW HOURS THAT AGREEMENT WAS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT. THEY TURNED THE PROBLEM OVER TO THEIR HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT. WHEN THOSE LEADERS GOT TOGETHER LAST SATURDAY, THE SPLIT SWIFTLY BECAME EVIDENT. TWENTY-TWO MEMBERS FAVORED THE RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY NIGERIA WHICH WOULD HAVE HAD THE OAU RECOGNIZE THE MPLA OR POPULAR MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT, WOULD HAVE THE OAU GIVE AID TO THE MPLA IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES, AND WOULD HAVE CONDEMNED HELP GIVEN THE OTHER TWO NATIONALIST FORCES-- THE NATIONAL FRONT AND UNITA. AN EQUAL NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS--TWENTY-TWO--BACKED THE SENEGALESE APPROACH WHICH WOULD HAVE CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, AND DEMANDED AN END TO SUPPLIES TO THE FACTIONS FROM OUTSIDE, AND A WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. THE SENEGALESE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE AND URGED ALL THREE FACTIONS TO JOIN IN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

DESPITE MANY SPEECHES, MUCH DEBATE AND STRENUOUS EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE, THE SPLIT REMAINED, AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED EARLY TUESDAY AFTER INSTRUCTING A SPECIAL, SEVEN-NATION CONCILIATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED SIX MONTHS AGO TO "CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE ANGOLAN SITUATION CLOSELY."

OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE FACT THAT THE MEMBERS DID NOT RUSH INTO A MAKESHIFT SOLUTION JUST FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARING UNIFIED. THE INEVITABLE FAILURE OF AN UNWORKABLE COMPROMISE MIGHT HAVE DONE MORE DAMAGE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY THAN THE FRANK AND REALISTIC ADMISSION THAT IT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME.

NEVERTHELESS, THE END OF THE OAU SUMMIT EFFORT LEAVES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. WILL THE MPLA WITH ITS SOVIET AND CUBAN SPONSORS CONTINUE ITS FIGHT TO FORCE ITS WILL ON THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ANGOLANS WHO DO NOT SUPPORT IT? OR WILL THE MPLA -- AND THE OTHER TWO GROUPS, THE NATIONAL FRONT AND UNITA -- ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TRIBAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM VIRTUALLY MANDATE COLLABORATION IN SOME KIND OF COALITION GOVERNMENT? CERTAINLY, ANYTHING LESS WOULD SEEM TO PROVIDE LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE MAJORITY OF ANGOLANS WOULD HAVE A SAY IN RUNNING THEIR GOVERNMENT.

SIMILAR QUESTIONS INVOLVE THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, SPECIFICALLY. HAVING FAILED TO HAVE ITS SOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM IMPOSED ON THE OAU, ONE WONDERS WHETHER MOSCOW WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO IMPOSE THAT SOLUTION BY FORCE IN ANGOLA. IF ONE CAN BELIEVE THE REPORTED WORDS OF THE CUBAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MR. RODRIGUES, -- PRESUMABLY SPEAKING WITH THE KREMLIN'S APPROVAL -- THE MOSCOW-CUBAN SIDE HAS NEVER CONSIDERED ANY OTHER PATH. BEFORE THE OAU MEETING, MR. RODRIGUEZ INDICATED SOMETHING LESS THAN RESPECT FOR ITS MEMBERS BY SAYING CUBA WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TROOPS TO THE MPLA EVEN IF THE OAU CALLED FOR AN END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

IT IS INDEED A TRAGIC SITUATION, AND ONE CANNOT HELP
WONDERING -- AS PERHAPS THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE ARE WONDERING --
WHETHER THE CONTENDING FACTIONS THERE WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE
IF ALL FOREIGN FORCES WERE ACTUALLY WITHDRAWN AND ALL OUTSIDE
WEAPONS SUPPLIES CUT OFF. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION MAY BE A LONG TIME COMING.

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